

Conodoguinet Creek Watershed Association Newsletter

March 2002

GOV. SCHWEIKER DECLARES DROUGHT EMERGENCY FOR 24 PA COUNTIES On February 12, 2002

Do Your Part to Conserve Water From PA DEP Update

The Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) called for continued voluntary water conservation throughout the Susquehanna basin as drought conditions persist in the lower Susquehanna region. Record low groundwater levels have also been recorded. Virtually the entire basin, including portions of New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland, is covered by drought watch and under warning declarations. A drought watch calls for a voluntary 5 to 10 percent reduction in water use and a drought warning calls for 10 to 15 percent voluntary reduction.

SRBC Executive Director Paul Swartz notes that the ongoing shortfalls in precipitation have resulted in all time record low seasonal groundwater levels in the lower Susquehanna region, below normal streamflows throughout the entire basin and below normal levels in many public water supply reservoirs. Without the return to a more normal precipitation pattern, we will undoubtedly experience increasing problems in water shortages. "Over the past 19 months, the basin has received below normal levels of precipitation in 15 of those months." "Right now, there is an increasing demand for services from the well-drilling industry in the lower Susquehanna region as more and more homeowners on private wells are experiencing water loss," said Swartz. "We are also very concerned about the low levels in some public water supply reservoirs."

The SRBC is urging all water users to voluntarily conserve water to help reduce the stresses on public water supplies and individual wells.

Indoor water conservation tips for residential water users include:

- o Repairing leaking toilets (a leaking toilet can lose up to 200 gallons per day)
- o Repairing leaking and dripping faucets (a leaking faucet can lose up to 11 gallons per day).
- o Taking shorter showers.
- o Using washing machines and dishwashers only when loads are full.
- o Not running water continuously while shaving, brushing teeth, or washing dishes by hand.
- o Installing new shower heads and sink faucets equipped with water saving devices, such as aerators or spray taps.
- o Refrigerating tap water to avoid running the faucet for a long period to get cold water.
- o Replacing older toilets that use more water with newer, low-consumption toilets.

Facts on appliance water use:	
Conventional appliances	Water-saving appliances
Toilet – 3.5 gallons/flush	Low-flow toilet – 1.6 gallons/flush
Shower – 3-10 gallons/minute	Low-flow shower – 2-2.5 gallons/minute
Top-loading washer – 40-55 gallons/load	Front-loading washer – 22-25 gallons/load
Dishwasher – 8-12/load	

LOCAL WELLS GO DRY

Closer to home, over 40 households in the limestone valley of Cumberland County had their wells go dry this winter. The area was south of Trindle Road close to where Silver Spring and South Middleton Townships converge. The area affected is near the watershed divide of the Conodoguinet Creek and Yellow Breeches Creek. Many of the wells at these homes had to be redrilled to a deeper level. Before that, residents were going to the homes of family or friends to shower and were carrying water from a tank that was brought in to supply water for drinking and other necessities.

Carlisle Borough Enters Safe Water Partnership Program

Article from the PA DEP Update

The Carlisle Borough Municipal Authority in Cumberland County recently signed an agreement to become the newest member of the Partnership for Safe Water. Carlisle is the latest drinking water system to join the Partnership program, a voluntary effort involving rigorous self-assessment procedures that are specifically geared toward identifying and correcting weaknesses in plant operation, design and administration. Correcting these weaknesses helps prevent waterborne disease outbreaks from organisms like Cryptosporidium and Giardia.

Through the partnership program, the Pennsylvania Section-American Water Works Association (PA-AWWA) has teamed up with DEP to heighten prevention of disease-causing organisms, to increase treatment plant performance and evaluation methods, as well as to develop public recognition for efforts toward optimal water quality. Even though disease-causing organisms are not a problem for Carlisle's filter plant, the Partnership program will provide an extra level of protection for consumers of their drinking water.

The Carlisle Borough Municipal Authority oversees the operation of a filtration plant that obtains raw water from the Conodoguinet Creek. Following treatment at the plant, drinking water is provided to about 20,000 people in Cumberland County. With the recent addition of Carlisle, 116 surface water filtration plants serving over 4.8 million people are now involved in the Partnership program.

<> For more information, contact Phil Consonery at 717 772-4018 or e-mail pconsonery@state.pa.us Information is also available on DEP's website (directLINK "filtration").

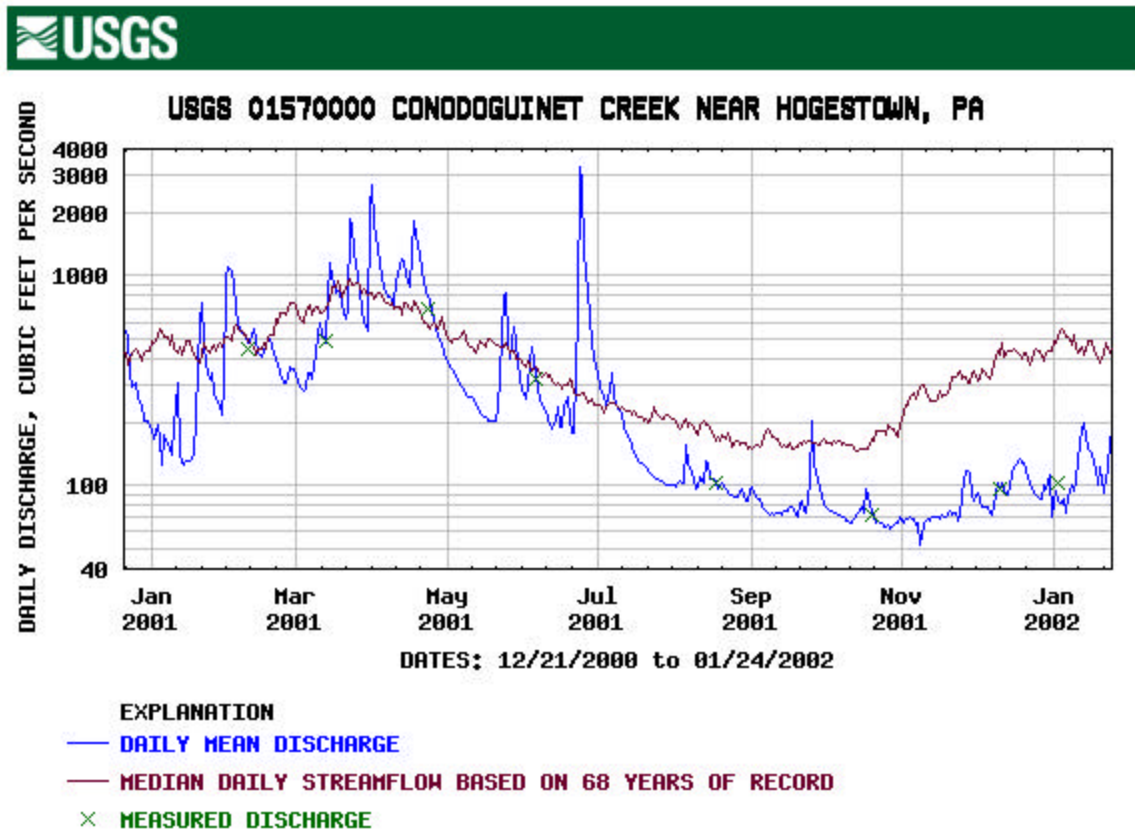
How High is the Water- Revisited

The July 2001 newsletter contained a stream hydrograph for the Conodoguinet Creek that showed the effects of the mid-June storm on the creek water level. Since that storm, we have had very little rain. The rainfall deficit for our area was 15 inches below average as of the end of 2001, as measured at Harrisburg airport. See what the deficit has done to our creek.

The figure below is the stream hydrograph for the Conodoguinet Creek from the United States Geological Survey website. The smoother (red) line is the average flow for the past 68 years; the line with the peaks (blue) is the flow for the past year. You can still see the effect of the high flow following the June storm- as the highest peak.

The Carlisle Sentinel had a front-page article about the Conodoguinet Creek and the Letort Creek in its Sunday March 17, 2002 edition. That edition had a stream hydrograph of the Letort Creek, which is presently less than half its long-term average flow for this time of year.

More stream hydrographs can be viewed on the USGS website at www.usgs.gov



Provisional Data Subject to Revision

**Second Annual Water Snapshot Planned for
Saturday April 27, 2002.**

Contact Wilbur Wolf for details at wewjr@epix.net or 776-5915

CCWA Sadly Notes Loss of Long Time Board Member Betty Sullivan

Betty Sullivan passed away on Saturday morning March 9, 2002 as a result of a fall the previous Tuesday. She was 70 years old. Betty will be missed by all who knew her as a friend and colleague. Betty was the CCWA treasurer for many years. She grew up in Cameron County, PA, and graduated from Allegheny College in Meadville, PA. She worked at the Army War College in Carlisle prior to retirement. She was active in the Garden Club and the American Association of University Women (AAUW).

Betty was a lovely person inside and out. I'm glad to have had the pleasure of knowing her, although for only a short time. Betty and her husband John lived for many years in a stately old farmhouse they had lovingly restored, close to the Conodoguinet Creek on Sample Bridge Road in Silver Spring Township.

Betty delighted in life and nature, especially flowers. Though retired, Betty never stopping wanting to learn new things. I remember talking to her at the CCWA annual picnic two years ago. Betty wanted to know where she could take a course in botany, or if I knew someone who could teach her more about botany. She said she had not learned anything new lately and she was anxious to learn more about plants. Betty already knew a lot more than most people did about plants, but she still wanted to know more.

Jane Earle

Burd Run Stream Channel, Wetlands, and Riparian Zone Restoration

The restoration of Burd Run to a meandering stream channel, floodplain wetland, and forested riparian zone within the Shippensburg Township Park was begun last fall. Much of the project construction has been completed; however, a substantial tree and shrub planting effort will take place this spring. Please come out and help.

This is an excellent opportunity to come out and see the project and to get your hands dirty and contribute.

Lots of volunteers are needed to help with planting, so please pass the word along any interested individuals. Volunteers should bring shovels and good shoes—expect the ground to be soggy in some wetland areas.

Thursday Mar. 28 - 9:00 AM

Planting willow stakes along the banks of the new stream channel. Volunteers from Cumberland County Conservation District and Shippensburg University.

Saturday, April 6 - 8:30-12:00

Tree planting workshop for Cumberland and Franklin County landowners, sponsored by DCNR Bureau of Forestry. Focus is on species selection, site evaluation, planting stock, tree shelters. Held at SU, pre-registration required.

Saturday, April 6 – 1:00 PM

Tree and shrub planting within riparian buffer and wetland fringe. Primarily Cumberland County Conservation District and area Boy Scouts / Girl Scouts, others welcome!

Sunday Apr. 14 – 1:00 PM

Tree and shrub planting within riparian buffer and wetland fringe.

Tuesday April 16 - 9:00 AM

Tree and shrub planting within riparian buffer and wetland fringe.

For further information, contact Christopher Woltemade at cjwolt@ship.edu or 477-1143.

Thanks!

Record Lows for Regional Streams

Nearly all the streams in southcentral and southeastern Pennsylvania were at record low levels for the day on February 25, 2002. This means flows were the lowest ever recorded for that date since the gages were installed, 40 years ago in some instances. The only streams that were not at record lows were the Susquehanna River, Juniata River, Perkiomen Creek and the Delaware River. The Kiski River was the only stream at a record low in Western PA. Northern PA streams are in better shape than the southeast and southcentral; none at record lows.

Stream	Gage Location	County	Flow in cfs	Low Record or Percentile Rank
Susquehanna River	Harrisburg	Dauphin	23,000	25 to 74 percentile
Juniata River	Newport	Perry	1,580	<10 percentile
Conodoguinet Creek	Hogestown	Cumberland	94	Record low
Yellow Breeches	Camp Hill	Cumberland	88	Record low
Letort Spring Run	Carlisle	Cumberland	16	Not ranked
Conestoga River	Lancaster	Lancaster	56	Record low
Shermans Creek	Shermansdale	Perry	40	Record low
Bixler Run	Loysville	Perry	3.4	Record low
West Conewago Creek	Manchester	York	62	Record low
Codorus Creek	Spring Grove	York	15	Record low
Tuscorora Creek	Port Royal	Juniata	21	Record low
Aughwick Creek	Three Springs	Bedford	15	Record low
Raystown Branch	At Dam	Huntingdon	210	<10 percentile
Lehigh River	Bethlehem	Northampton	1050	Record low
Schuylkill River	Berne	Berks	213	Record low
Schuylkill River	Philadelphia	Philadelphia	674	<10 percentile
Wissahickon Creek	Mouth	Philadelphia	39	Record low
Pennypack Creek	Philadelphia	Philadelphia	20	Record low
French Creek	Phoenixville	Chester	18	Record low
West Brandywine Creek	Modena	Chester	22	Record low
East Brandywine Creek	Downingtown	Chester	27	Record low
Brandywine Creek	Chadds Ford	Chester	113	Record low
Neshaminy Creek	Langhorne	Bucks	51	Record low
Perkiomen Creek	Graterford	Montgomery	138	<10 percentile
Delaware River	Trenton	New Jersey	5030	<10 percentile
Potomac River	Hancock	Maryland	791	Record low
Kiski River	Vandergrift	Armstrong	626	Record low

CLEAN-UP AND TREE PLANTING AT WILLOW MILL PARK

A Willow Mill Park outing is to be held on **Saturday, March 23rd, from 8am to 2pm**. This is a chance to see the park improvements funded by a DEP Growing Greener grant and to help with the restoration. **Your help is needed**. The second and final outing will be two weeks later on **April 6**. Please contact Gil Freedman if you are planning to attend. The park is in Silver Spring Township.

Saturday March 23: stream bank clean up and preparation for planting
Saturday April 6: actual planting - lunch provided.

Call Gil Freedman, 697-2513, or email at gil@ezonline.net

Plants: The Secret Medicines of the Conodoguinet

What did modern man and ancient inhabitants of the Cumberland Valley use as medicine before modern drugs? What's still effective? The **Thursday March 28, 2002** meeting of the Conodoguinet Creek Watershed Association will feature a talk by Susanna Reppert, co-owner and operator of the Rosemary House in Mechanicsburg. Mrs. Reppert is a recognized authority on medicinal and culinary herbs native to the valley and our watershed.

The program is open to the public free of charge. Plan to attend and bring a friend. The meeting will be held at the **Carlisle Community Center**, starting at **7:30 pm**. The Center is located at 415 Franklin Street, Carlisle. To reach the center travel west or east on High Street to College Street (Route 74). Go north on College Street two blocks to North Street and turn west (left) on North Street. At the first street on right (Franklin Street) turn right, go two blocks and look for the center, a retired school building, at Lincoln St. on the far right corner. The parking lot is on the north or far side of the building.

For more information contact Gil Freedman, 697-2513 or gil@ezonline.net

WANTED

NEW CCWA TREASURER

**If you can balance a checkbook and a have some spare time, we need you.
Please call Wilbur Wolf if you want to volunteer, at 776-5915**

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